(c) No, Sir.

(d) The construction work could not be started due to non-transfer of the proposed land in favour of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) by the State Government. The commencement of construction work depends on transfer of the land free of all encumbrances, by the State Government in favour of NVS.

Role of private sector in elementary education

973. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the role of private and corporate sectors in the fields of elementary education and in providing Mid-Day-Meals;

(b) if so, what have been the achievements; and

(c) what kind of public-private partnership Government envisages in rural area and what is the reaction of cardboards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) In the report of the PPP Sub-Group on social sector brought out by the Planning Commission in 2004, a reference has been made about Public-Private Partnership in Mid-Day Meal Scheme and Computer Aided Learning at Elementary Level under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). The guidelines of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme provide for association of Voluntary Organisations who undertake to supply cooked mid-day meal and provide resource support to the programme through trainng and capacity building, monitoring & evaluation and research. Selection, identification of Voluntary Organizations for the above activities is done by implementing agency of scheme, *i.e.* State Governments/UT administrations. No assessment has been made of the implementation of the programme through these organizations. A component of Computer Aided Learning (CAL) operated through PPP is funded under SSA. Eighty One (81) private organizations are associated with CAL during the current year. No assessment of the role of private sector in elementary education has been undertaken under SSA.

Standardization and homogenization of curriculum

974. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to standardize and homogenize the curriculum across all Indian universities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and what academic benefits are likely to accrue thereby; and

(c) whether this would undermine the very integrity of the concept of universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) A Committee has been constituted by the University Grants Commission to suggest a frame-work that would help in ensuring and enhancing the quality and relevance of curriculum. There is no proposal for introduction of any uniform curriculum in respective subjects or disciplines. The universities being autonomous institutions, have the freedom of designing their own curriculum. The introduction of new courses by universities is a regular feature in higher education system.